

REDUCING ANIMAL TESTING WITHIN EPA PROGRAMS

BACKGROUND:

- Over the past several years, the agency has made significant efforts to reduce, replace, and refine its animal testing requirements.
- Under both the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) and the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA), EPA has issued roadmaps and policies to identify, develop, and implement new approach methodologies (NAMs).
- NAMs are any technology, methodology, approach, or combination thereof that can be used to provide information on chemical hazard and risk assessment that avoids the use of animals.

KEY POINTS:

- In June 2018, EPA released a Strategic Plan to promote the development and implementation of NAMs to reduce, refine, or replace vertebrate animal testing in TSCA decision-making.
- Under FIFRA, EPA is focusing on alternatives for pesticides' acute toxicity, also called "6-pack" testing (acute oral, acute dermal, acute inhalation, primary eye irritation, primary dermal irritation, and dermal sensitization).
 - The acute toxicity 6-pack is the primary set of toxicological studies required for a human health pesticide hazard assessment and require testing with rats and rabbits.
 - By eliminating 6-pack studies, EPA could save over 10,000 animals annually.
- Based on a study conducted with PETA, EPA concluded in September 2019 that for most pesticides it can confidently assess acute risk for birds using one protocol rather than two, thereby saving about 720 birds each year.
- In September 2019, the Administrator signed a Directive to prioritize EPA's efforts to reduce animal testing including reducing mammal study requests and funding 30 percent by 2025 and eliminating them by 2035.
- In December 2019, EPA brought together some of the leading voices in environmental and health research its first annual NAMs conference to discuss alternative test methods and strategies to reduce animal testing.
- OCSPP and ORD are working with other EPA offices to develop a workplan to implement the Administrator's Directive.
- EPA is working collaboratively with stakeholders, including the regulated community, animal welfare groups (Human Society) and other NGOs such as the Health and Environmental Sciences Institute (HESI) and the Center for Alternatives to Animal Testing (CAAT).

TALKING POINTS:

- EPA is committed to avoiding unnecessary animal testing throughout the agency and remains focused on promoting the development and implementation of alternative test methods of equivalent or better scientific quality and relevance for assessing risks to health and the environment of chemical substances.

- For example, in the pesticide program, from December 2011 to July 2019, over 230,000 laboratory animals have been saved, reducing costs to industry by over \$310 million, while maintaining confidence in EPA's scientific conclusions.
- I am proud that we held our first annual conference with leading voices in environmental and health research gathered to discuss alternative test methods and strategies to reduce animal testing.
- This was an important step in implementing our September 2019 commitment to aggressively pursue a reduction in animal testing by reducing EPA's requests for, and funding of, mammalian studies by 30 percent by 2025 and eliminating all mammalian study requests and funding by 2035.